

Appl. No. 10/783,649
Amdt. Dated December 30, 2008
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A medication management system, for use with an electronic network having one or more access nodes, the medication management system comprising:

a medication management unit adapted for electronic communication with the electronic network, the medication management unit having a processing unit and a storage medium coupled to the processing unit;

a medical device adapted for electronic communication with the electronic network and the medication management unit through use of one of the access nodes, the medical device having a processor and a memory coupled to the processor;

wherein at least one of the medical device memory and the medication management unit storage medium contains programming code to determine the physical location of a medical device based on which one of the access nodes was last used by the medical device and to report the last used access node to the medication management unit;

a user access device adapted for electronic communication with the medication management unit, the user access device displays the physical location of a medical device base on the report from the medication management unit; and

wherein the medical device has program code to activate and generate from the medical device an audio location alarm signal in response to an alarm request from the user access device relayed through the medication management unit to allow a user to pinpoint the physical location of the medical device.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the user access device requests a report of the physical location of a medical device from the medication management unit.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the medication management unit contains the programming code and provides the report of the last used access node when the medication management unit receives a request for a report of the physical location from the user access

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device.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the medical device contains the programming code and reports the last used access node to the medication management unit when the medical device receives a request for a report of the last used access node from the medication management unit.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the medical device contains the programming code and periodically determines the last used access node.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the medical device contains the programming code and periodically reports the last used access node to the medication management unit.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the medication management unit contains the programming code and periodically determines the physical location of the medical device based on the last access node used by the medical device.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the medication management unit contains the programming code and periodically reports the physical location of the medical device to the user access device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the user access device is remotely located from the medication management unit.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the user access device comprises a computer located in a biomedical technician area.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the user access device comprises a PDA.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking a medical device connectable with an electronic network having one or more access nodes, comprising:

determining the last access node used by a medical device and reporting the last used access node to a medication management unit;

determining the physical location of a medical device based on the last access node used by the medical device as reported at the medication management unit; and

displaying the physical location of a medical device at a user access device, based on a report

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from the medication management unit; and

activating and generating an audio location alarm signal from the medical device in response to an alarm request from the user access device relayed through the medication management unit to allow a user to pinpoint the physical location of the medical device.

13. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the medical device is selected from a group of medical devices consisting of a medical pump, a medical diagnostic device, and a patient vital signs monitor.

14. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein a predetermined time delay is provided by the system prior to activation and generation of the audio location alarm signal in order to allow a searcher to travel to the last used access node.

15. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the activating and generating steps are executed using a medical device selected from a group of medical devices consisting of a medical pump, a diagnostic device, and a patient vital signs monitor.

16. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of inserting a predetermined time delay prior to the activating and generating steps in order to allow a searcher to travel to the last used access node.